Third Russia–Africa Summit – Plenary Session
Moscow, Russian Federation, 28–29 October 2026

Statement by Dr Patrick Herminie President of the Republic of Seychelles

Your Excellency, President Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation,
Your Excellency, Mr Évariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the African Union,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address the Third Russia–Africa Summit. I thank President Vladimir Putin and the Government of the Russian Federation for their warm hospitality and for convening this important meeting.

Relations between Africa and Russia are rooted in a long history of friendship, solidarity and cooperation. We recall the support extended by the former Soviet Union to African liberation movements in their struggle for independence. We also recognise its contribution to the education and training of generations of African professionals and to the continent's socio-economic development.

Today, these ties must evolve to reflect a changing world and Africa's aspirations.

By 2050, Africa is projected to account for one in four people worldwide. African countries already represent more than a quarter of the membership of the United Nations. Our young population, abundant natural resources and growing capacity for innovation give our continent an increasingly important role in shaping the global future.

We must translate this potential into tangible improvements in the lives of our people. This requires strengthening productive capacity, supporting African ownership of development and enabling countries to create and retain greater value within their economies. Our international engagement must be guided by sovereign equality, mutual respect and tangible benefits for all.

Seychelles reaffirms its commitment to advancing Russia–Africa relations and supports the Declaration and Action Plan submitted for adoption at this Summit.

Excellencies,

This year, Seychelles celebrates fifty years of independence and fifty years of diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation. These milestones offer an opportunity to reflect on our longstanding friendship and consider how we can deepen our ties.

Over the decades, cooperation in education, sport, culture and other fields has brought our peoples closer together.

My visit to Russia in April this year, the first working visit by a President of Seychelles to the Russian Federation, marked an important milestone in our bilateral relations. It reaffirmed our determination to expand cooperation and deliver concrete benefits for our peoples.

Year-round Aeroflot services have improved connectivity and contributed to the growing number of Russian visitors to Seychelles. We are also making progress towards expanding trade and identifying further areas of economic cooperation.

Russia has contributed to our golden jubilee celebrations in a particularly memorable way. By carrying Seychelles' national symbols to the International Space Station, it offered a unique gesture of friendship that gave special meaning to our anniversary.

Our relations have also demonstrated their practical value in times of difficulty. The crisis in the Middle East earlier this year disrupted energy supplies and cargo movements and affected tourism. These developments exposed the vulnerability of small island economies to external shocks.

Russia's provision of food and medical supplies was a welcome expression of solidarity. We are deeply grateful for this support, which reinforced the value of our longstanding ties.

Excellencies,

Seychelles approaches the Russia–Africa Partnership as both a committed member of the African Union and a Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

SIDS account for less than one per cent of the world's population but nearly one fifth of the membership of the United Nations. Our collective voice is significant, and our specific vulnerabilities and development priorities must be recognised in international decision-making.

Our ocean is our lifeline For African island states, sustainable development depends on healthy oceans, climate resilience and reliable access to regional and global markets. These priorities are central to Seychelles, where tourism and fisheries sustain our economy, generate employment and support the livelihoods of our people.

Its rich biodiversity and the quality of our natural environment underpin our prosperity and attract visitors from around the world, including Russia.

Yet rising sea levels, coastal erosion and warming oceans threaten our ecosystems, infrastructure and economic security. Addressing these risks requires scientific research, investment and practical solutions.

Climate resilience must therefore be a priority in Africa's development agenda. Russia's scientific expertise, technical capabilities and experience in areas such as ocean research, environmental monitoring and disaster preparedness could make a valuable contribution, particularly for vulnerable island and coastal states.

Against this background, Seychelles proposes the establishment of a **Russia–Africa Climate Resilience Facility**, to be included in the Summit's Action Plan.

The Facility would provide a practical framework for translating our shared commitment to climate resilience into concrete projects. Its initial focus would be on African island and coastal states, where rising sea levels, coastal erosion, marine ecosystem degradation and extreme weather events threaten economies and livelihoods.

We envisage a phased approach, beginning with a joint assessment of participating countries' priorities and the identification of an initial set of pilot projects. These could include coastal protection and ecosystem restoration, marine and oceanographic research, climate monitoring and early-warning systems, and the application of scientific and technological solutions to strengthen resilience.

Implementation would be guided by national priorities and undertaken in cooperation with relevant African and Russian institutions. The Facility could mobilise scientific expertise, technical assistance, training and financial resources from interested partners, including through voluntary contributions and existing cooperation mechanisms.

To advance this proposal, Seychelles invites the Russian Federation and interested African countries to establish a joint technical working group. Its initial tasks would be to define the Facility's scope, identify potential partners and funding sources, select priority pilot projects, and develop a phased implementation plan with clear responsibilities and measurable outcomes.

Progress could be reviewed through established Russia–Africa dialogue mechanisms. This would allow participating countries to assess results, share lessons and expand successful initiatives.

Seychelles stands ready to contribute its experience in marine conservation, sustainable ocean management and climate adaptation. We believe the Facility could become a focused, results-oriented instrument that delivers tangible benefits to vulnerable African states and strengthens cooperation between Russia and Africa.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of Russia–Africa relations will ultimately be measured by the results they deliver. Our shared history provides a strong foundation, but our focus must be on the future: creating opportunities, strengthening resilience and improving the lives of our people.

We must ensure that Africa's diversity is reflected in our common priorities, including the specific needs of its island states.

Seychelles stands ready to work with Russia and our African partners to advance this vision. Let us turn our commitments into practical action and build a future founded on mutual respect, shared responsibility and sustainable development.

Thank you.